



TOWARD A BASELINE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR AREA-BASED MARINE PROTECTIONS IN THE ARCTIC

**ANNEX 1: CANADA
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OVERVIEW

As of early 2026, Canada considers 17.5% of its marine and coastal areas to be conserved.

At the federal level, Canadian law achieves area-based marine protection by the use of marine protected areas (MPAs) and “other effective area-based conservation measures” (marine OECMs), which may also be referred to as “conserved areas.” The federal government establishes and manages MPAs and marine OECMs primarily under the auspices of five Canadian laws (and their associated regulations and orders):

- Oceans Act
- Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act
- Canada Wildlife Act
- Fisheries Act
- Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994

Key federal implementing agencies include: *Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*, *Parks Canada*, and *Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)*, as well as the ECCC’s *Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)*.

Purpose of this Document

This assessment supplements *Toward a Baseline Legal Framework for Area-Based Marine Protections in the Arctic* by examining the extent to which Canada’s legal framework aligns with the baseline legal elements and Arctic themes identified in that discussion draft. Rather than developing a new framework, it applies the report’s analytical approach to assess how the Canadian legal framework supports effective area-based marine protection in the Arctic.

The assessment considers Canada’s legal framework as a whole, rather than any individual law or protected area designation. It evaluates the extent to which the framework reflects the baseline legal elements for effective area-based marine protection (Table 1) and addresses the associated Arctic themes (Table 2). The analysis is intended to inform discussion by identifying areas of alignment, strengths, and potential gaps relative to the baseline framework.

Table 1. Baseline Legal Elements for Area-Based Marine Protection

	Legal Element	Description
1	Objectives	Sets forth governmental (i.e., legislative or administrative) goal
2	Guiding principles	Establishes scientific, social, and policy principles
3	Institutional authority	Clarifies institutional authority and roles
4	Indigenous, traditional, & customary considerations	Clarifies roles and secures authority of Indigenous Peoples and groups with traditional and customary rights to marine resources
5	Area designation	Provides for formal legal designation of area
6	MPA network	Supports a framework for holistic network of marine area protections
7	Area management	Provides for on-the-water management of area
8	Monitoring & evaluation	Allows for collecting data and assessing effectiveness of conservation measures within area
9	Enforcement	Supports compliance with area's prohibitions and restrictions
10	Sustainable financing	Addresses sustainable funding for area management
11	Definitions (Interpretation)	Ensures accuracy of and consistency among legal terms
12	Application/scope	Establishes legal coverage (e.g., with respect to maritime zones)
13	Harmonization	Ensures alignment with domestic and international requirements/commitments

Table 2. Arctic Themes

	Thematic Category	Theme
A	Environment	Unique Arctic ecosystems & features
B		Climate change
C	Threats	Industrial pressures—particularly fishing & shipping
D	National approaches	Indigenous, traditional, & customary considerations
E		Intra-governmental coordination
F		Minimum protection standards
G	Regional integration	Pan-Arctic governance & processes

The premise underlying this assessment is that where a country's legal framework contains the baseline legal elements—and is capable of addressing the Arctic themes through those elements—it provides an enabling environment for robust and durable area-based marine protection in the Arctic. Conversely, the absence of one or more baseline legal elements, or an inability to address one or more Arctic themes, may indicate legal gaps that could limit or undermine effective area-based marine protection. Accordingly, this analysis evaluates the content of the legal framework itself, rather than how the law is administered, implemented, or enforced, while recognizing that these are also critical determinants of conservation outcomes.

As discussed below, Canada's legal framework for area-based marine protection is relatively robust with respect to the presence of legal framework elements but comes up short as to the Arctic themes. Still, opportunities exist for further legal development by way of amended acts and new regulations, as well as through further policy development.

Part I of this document introduces key Canadian federal legal authorities and policies for area-based marine protection. Part II considers the alignment of Canada's legal framework against a baseline legal framework for area-based marine protection in the Arctic. Part III includes a brief discussion and takeaways. The Annex lists the legal instruments and policy documents consulted for this assessment.

Summary of Key Canadian Legal Authorities and Policies for Area-Based Marine Protection

Oceans Act: marine protected areas

The Oceans Act, Canada's framework law for ocean governance and management, is primarily administered by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The Act contains a mechanism (§§ 35–36) for the designation of marine protected areas in Canada's internal waters, the territorial sea, and the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Specific designation criteria are provided, and the Act expressly ties the precautionary principle to MPA designations. The Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, is granted both specific and general authority to make regulations respecting marine MPAs, including MPA designation. Separately, the Minister may, by order, designate a marine protected area for up to five years (at which time the Minister must repeal the order or recommend to the Governor in Council a regulatory designation).

The Minister is to lead and coordinate the development and implementation of a national network of marine protected areas on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The MPA provisions of the Act must be read in the context of the Act's requirements that the Minister develop and implement a national strategy for the management of estuarine, coastal, and marine ecosystems in the waters over which Canada is sovereign or has sovereign rights. The Minister is further charged under the Act with leading and facilitating the development and implementation of plans for the integrated management of all activities or measures in or affecting these waters. The Act makes a small number of references to "affected aboriginal organizations" in the context of developing and implementing national strategy and integrated management plans.

The Act further provides that Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister, may by order establish marine protected areas on an interim basis in emergency situations.

The Act contains extensive offense and penalty provisions.

The Act does not contain Arctic-specific provisions.

Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act: marine conservation areas and reserves

Under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act, implemented by Parks Canada, a marine or coastal area may be established and managed for the purpose of protecting and conserving representative marine areas for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of all (§ 4). In the preamble, Parliament affirms the need to establish a system of marine conservation areas that are representative of (among other areas) the Arctic Ocean and are of sufficient extent and such configuration as to maintain healthy marine ecosystems.

The Act has application in Canada's internal waters, territorial sea, and EEZ. It provides for the establishment, management, and enforcement of both marine conservation areas (which must be zoned) and reserves. Reserves are established where an area or a portion of an area proposed for a marine conservation area is subject to a claim in respect of aboriginal rights that has been accepted for negotiation by the Government of Canada.

The roles of aboriginal organizations and aboriginal governments are called out in various other provisions of the Act, which address—

- conduct of scientific research and monitoring and carrying out of studies based on traditional aboriginal ecological knowledge;
- entry into agreements with aboriginal governments;
- consultation with aboriginal organizations and aboriginal governments regarding—
 - management planning;
 - the development of marine conservation area policy and regulations, the establishment of any proposed marine conservation area, and the modification of any marine conservation area;
 - composition of advisory committees; and
- designation of persons in aboriginal government as enforcement officers.

In the development of marine conservation area policy and regulations, and in the establishment or modification of any proposed marine conservation area, the Act requires the Minister responsible for Parks Canada to consult with relevant federal and provincial ministers and agencies, with affected coastal communities, aboriginal organizations, aboriginal governments and bodies established under land claims agreements, and with such other persons and bodies that the Minister considers appropriate.

The Act contains extensive offense and penalty provisions and addresses mitigation of environmental damage. The Act also allows for the designation of marine conservation area wardens, whose authority is covered in detail.

The Act grants expansive regulation-making authority to the Governor in Council.

The Act contains little in the way of Arctic-specific provisions, though the Act does reference the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act (which prohibits the unauthorized deposit of waste by persons or ships in Arctic waters).

Canada Wildlife Act: protected marine areas (aka marine national wildlife areas)

The Canada Wildlife Act is administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), part of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

The Act authorizes the Governor in Council to establish protected marine areas (§ 4.1) in any area of the sea that forms part of Canada's internal waters, territorial sea, or EEZ. Relatedly, the Minister of the Environment may provide advice relating to any wildlife research, conservation, and interpretation carried out in protected marine areas, and may further carry out measures for the conservation of wildlife in those areas. The Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing such conservation measures in protected marine areas.

The Act contains extensive offense and penalty provisions.

The Act does not provide for Indigenous or traditional considerations.

The Act does not contain Arctic-specific provisions.

Fisheries Act: ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) & marine refuges

The Fisheries Act, administered by DFO, applies in “Canadian fisheries waters,” which comprise Canada’s internal waters, territorial sea, and “fishing zones”—which includes the EEZ.

The Act contains two mechanisms for establishing area-based designations that can potentially be recognized as marine OECMs. First, the Act (§ 35.2(2)) provides that the Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, make regulations designating “ecologically significant areas,” respecting the objectives for the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat in such areas, and providing for how certain “works, undertakings, and activities” in such areas may be authorized. The purpose of ESAs is to provide long-term enhanced conservation and protection of key areas for fish and fish habitat that are highly productive, sensitive, rare, or unique, and to ensure effective restoration of these areas when needed. Ecological criteria are set forth in policy guidance.

Second, the Act allows for long-term fisheries management closures, which are deemed “marine refuges” when they have been assessed against national OECM Guidance and are recognized as OECMs. At present (early 2026), marine refuges are the only area-based designations that have been deemed marine OECMs.

The Act includes various provisions that address the Indigenous people of Canada (in part replacing earlier usage in the Act of the term “aboriginal.”), as well as the federal government’s engagement with Indigenous governing bodies and use of Indigenous knowledge. Also, when making a decision under the Act, the Minister must consider any adverse effects that the decision may have on the rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

The Act as a whole contains extensive offense and penalty provisions.

The Act does not contain Arctic-specific provisions.

Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994: migratory bird sanctuaries

The Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 is overseen by the Minister of the Environment. The Act has application in Canada’s internal waters, territorial sea, and EEZ.

Under the Act, the Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations (§ 12(1)(i)) “prescribing protection areas for migratory birds and nests, and for the control and management of those areas.” Regulations have been issued to provide rules for the control and management of such areas, generally, as well as to establish specific sanctuaries.

The Act as a whole contains extensive offense and penalty provisions.

The Act does not expressly provide for Indigenous or traditional considerations.

The Act contains little in the way of Arctic-specific provisions, though the Act does reference the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act.

Supporting Policy Framework for Area-Based Marine Protection

The Canadian government has issued various policy documents that, while not binding law, are important for area-based marine protection. Particularly relevant are the *Federal Marine Protected Areas Protection Standard* and the *Guidance for Recognizing Marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures*. Additionally, Canada has policy guidance on the identification and protection of benthic habitats.

1. Establishment of a minimum MPA protection standard

The *Federal Marine Protected Areas Protection Standard*, issued in 2019 and updated in 2023, is intended to provide a common minimum level of protection and greater consistency and clarity on certain prohibited types of activities, including:

- oil and gas exploration, development, and production;
- mineral exploration and exploitation;
- disposal at sea of waste and other matter, dumping of fill, and deposits of deleterious drugs and pesticides; and
- fishing via bottom-trawl gear.

The policy explains how these minimum prohibitions are to be applied for certain kinds of federal MPAs established after issuance of the guidance (i.e., after April 2019). Although the guidance itself is not legally binding, once implemented for a specific MPA, each prohibition for that MPA does become a binding legal requirement. The protection standard applies to:

- Oceans Act MPAs established by DFO (except those established by ministerial order);
- National marine conservation areas established by Parks Canada under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act (and the marine components of national parks established by Parks Canada under the Canada National Parks Act);
- Marine national wildlife Areas (and the marine components of National Wildlife Areas) established by ECCC under the Canada Wildlife Act; and
- Migratory bird sanctuaries established by ECCC under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994.

The guidance specifies situations where the protection standard does not apply. Additionally, the protection standard is inapplicable to a number of activities, including an activity conducted with respect to “aboriginal and treaty rights.”

As part of the MPA protection standard, Transport Canada was to develop and implement regulatory proposals to enhance restrictions on certain vessel discharges in MPAs. It does not appear at the time of this writing that these regulatory requirements are yet in place.

2. Recognition of marine OECMs

In 2022, Canada issued a *Guidance for Recognizing Marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures*. This policy document is used to determine when an area-based measure that has been established in law by an appropriate jurisdiction in the Pacific, Arctic, or Atlantic Ocean meets the science-based criteria and satisfies the principles required to be recognized as a marine OECM. The document also implements Canada's 2019 marine OECM protection standard, which is intended to help ensure that the OECM provides long-term biodiversity conservation benefits. Under the standard, all existing and foreseeable activities in an OECM are assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the risks they pose to biodiversity conservation benefits are effectively avoided or mitigated.

With respect to mineral exploration and extraction, the Government has further explained that “if oil and gas extraction under a production license begins in a federal OECM, the overlapping portion of the OECM would no longer contribute to meeting Canada’s international target.”

3. Protection of ocean bottom and benthic species

Canada's 2009 *Policy for Managing the Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive Benthic Areas* is intended to assist DFO in managing fisheries to mitigate impacts of fishing on “sensitive benthic areas” or to avoid impacts of fishing that are likely to cause serious or irreversible harm to sensitive marine habitat, communities, and species. The policy applies to all commercial, recreational, and indigenous fishing activities licensed or managed pursuant to the Fisheries Act and the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, including fishing inside and outside of the EEZ.

A 2019 policy, the *Ecological risk assessment framework for coldwater corals and sponge dominated communities*, further provides an Ecological Risk Assessment Framework (ERAF) to be used as a decision-making process under the 2009 policy. Canada may identify sensitive benthic areas and “significant benthic areas” and then design and implement management measures, including area-based designations and other tools.

Alignment with Baseline Legal Framework for Area-Based Marine Protection in the Arctic

Canada's legal framework for area-based marine protection in the Arctic aligns well with the Arctic baseline in terms of most legal framework elements. However, Canadian law falls short with respect to most Arctic themes. Findings with respect to baseline legal framework elements and Arctic themes are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Assessing Canada's legal framework for area-based marine protection in the Arctic against baseline legal framework elements & Arctic themes

Baseline Legal Framework Elements			Arctic Themes			
1	Objectives	●	Environment	A	Unique Arctic ecosystems & features	● ●
2	Guiding principles	● ✓		B	Climate change	● ●
3	Institutional authority	●	Threats	C	Industrial pressure—particularly fishing & shipping	● ●
4	Indigenous, traditional, & customary considerations	●				
5	Area designation	● ✓	National approaches	D	Indigenous, traditional, & customary considerations	● ✓
6	MPA network	●		E	Intra-governmental coordination	●
7	Area management	●		F	Minimum protection standards	● (via policy)
8	Monitoring & evaluation	●	Regional integration	G	Pan-Arctic governance & processes	● ●
9	Enforcement	● ✓				
10	Sustainable financing	●	●	=	Key present (legal element) expressly addressed (Arctic theme)	
11	Definitions (Interp.)	●	✓	=	robustly or extensively addressed	
12	Application/scope	●	●	=	absent (legal element) not or minimally addressed (Arctic theme)	
13	Harmonization	●	●	=	potential to be addressed through regulation	

As discussed above in Part I, Canada has at least five national laws that empower multiple federal agencies to establish in Arctic waters marine protected areas, as well as to establish other types of areas that can be recognized as marine OECMs. The available categories of areas are:

- marine protected areas (Oceans Act)
- marine conservation areas and reserves (Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act)
- marine national wildlife areas (Canada Wildlife Act)
- ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) & marine refuges [which can be marine OECMs] (Fisheries Act)
- migratory bird sanctuaries (Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994)

These legislative acts, when viewed collectively, address all of the key legal framework elements—with the exception of articulating a strong, clear Indigenous role under the law of federal marine protection.

However, the acts for the most part do not address the Arctic themes. Specifically, the acts lack provisions that expressly address the thematic categories of Arctic environment, threats, and regional integration. However, the presence of expansive regulation-making authority (and a detailed federal policy and guidance framework) can potentially be used to address these themes. The Arctic thematic categories involving national approaches are somewhat addressed by the Canadian legal framework.

Where Canada's legal framework meets or exceeds the baseline

With one exception, Canada's legal framework for area-based marine protection performs strongly with respect to the baseline legal framework elements. Indigenous and traditional considerations are the exception, as the framework does not articulate a clear decision-making role for Indigenous people and Indigenous governing bodies.

A key strength of the legal framework is *clarity as to its application*. Each major law makes clear which Canadian maritime zones are subject to the law—and, importantly, all area-based designations discussed here are available in Canada's EEZ.

The legal framework is also typically *clear with respect to how area-based marine protections will be established and managed*. The Oceans Act provides a good example of applying the precautionary principle to the designation and regulation of MPAs.

Canada's legal framework also features *extensive provisions on enforcement*. When area-based designations are in place, an impressive range of enforcement tools, offenses, and penalties are available.

An aspect of the Canadian legal framework for area-based marine protection that is both a strength and, arguably, a weakness, is Canada's *expansive suite of government-issued guidance documents and policy statements*. On the one hand, these documents—including one that establishes a minimum protection standard for MPAs and one that provides criteria for recognizing certain area-based designations as OECMs—clarify and expand in important ways on how the overall legal framework is to be applied. On the other hand, because these documents operate at the level of policy, and not law, they are non-binding and thus easily subject to change or deletion over time.

Though (as discussed further below) the legal framework is much less robust with respect to the Arctic themes, the “national approaches” themes are addressed to varying degrees. These include Indigenous, traditional, and customary considerations (in various provisions of the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act); intra-governmental coordination (same); and minimum protection standards (policy standard applicable across multiple acts).

Where Canada's legal framework falls short of the baseline

Canada's legal framework for area-based marine protection in the Arctic falls short of the baseline in two main ways. First, it fails to articulate and implement through a legal framework element a clear, robust decision-making role in federal MPA designation and management for Indigenous people. Second, the framework fails to expressly address the Arctic themes pertaining to the environment, threats, and regional integration.

Indigenous decision-making legal framework element. As noted in the discussion above, several key Canadian laws providing for area-based marine protection do contain provisions that benefit Indigenous peoples. However, these provisions—which address matters such as consultation, the making of agreements, and use of Indigenous knowledge, to name several—fall short of a clear, consistent, and robust decision-making role for Indigenous people in the designation and management of federal MPAs.

This determination is reached solely from the perspective of Canadian federal MPAs. At the same time, it is critical to note that in Canada, the separate concept of Indigenous Protected

and Conserved Areas (or IPCAs) has emerged from discussions among Canadian Indigenous groups. IPCAs are lands and waters where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems. At present, marine IPCAs are treated as legally distinct from federal MPAs and marine OECMs. However, an IPCA that otherwise satisfies the criteria for a federal MPA or marine OECM could be designated as an MPA or recognized as a marine OECM by the federal government. Further examination of underlying Indigenous rights, laws, and norms is beyond the scope of this assessment.

Arctic themes. Canada's legal framework for area-based marine protection in the Arctic also fails to address a number of key Arctic thematic considerations: unique Arctic ecosystems and features; climate change (e.g. by way of providing for "climate-smart" MPAs or facilitating dynamic ocean management (DOM)); industrial pressures to Arctic waters resulting from threats, such as fishing and shipping; and pan-Arctic governance and approaches (e.g., as embodied by the 2025 Framework for a Pan-Arctic Marine Conservation Network).

Discussion and Takeaways

Discussion

Overall, and in comparison to other jurisdictions around the world, Canada has a robust legal framework for area-based marine protection at the national level. Canada's legal framework is sufficiently rigorous to support the designation, management, and enforcement of protected areas across Canada's Arctic maritime zones, including in the EEZ. However, Canada's legal framework underperforms with respect to enshrining a strong role for Indigenous people in area-based marine protection and also in regard to addressing certain key Arctic themes in a granular way.

Though this assessment focuses on the content of Canadian law and policy rather than on implementation, two relevant recent government audits merit attention here. First, an independent audit conducted by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada on marine protected and conserved areas found that the Canadian government had come up short. Specifically, the Auditor General found that DFO, Parks Canada, and ECCC were not on track to establish protected and conserved areas covering 25% of marine and coastal ecosystems by 2025, as well as that the three federal entities had not developed an updated, collaborative plan to establish a network of protected and conserved marine areas by 2030 that are ecologically representative and of significance to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. Additionally, the three entities had not developed clear guidance to implement the aforementioned Federal Marine Protected Areas Protection Standard, which created a risk of insufficient support for decision-making on the standard's prohibitions and of inconsistent application across regions and sites.

This recent audit notably did not point to limitations in the *legal framework*. Rather, the audit's recommendations were to: "update and implement the federal collaborative framework so that Canada's network of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures is well protected and conserved"; "develop guidance to provide greater clarity on how the Federal Marine Protected Areas Protection Standard is to be applied to Canada's federal marine protected areas considering differing requirements

across the three federal entities”; and generate better public information and reporting on the protection and conservation of Canada’s marine and coastal areas to reflect Canada’s progress towards qualitative elements under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by providing greater consistency in the publicly available information on each site.

A second independent audit conducted by the Auditor General considered whether ECCC, DFO, and Parks Canada supported Indigenous governments and organizations to implement selected cooperative management models for protected terrestrial areas and marine and coastal areas in a manner consistent with “reconciliation.” The audit examined how the federal government worked with Indigenous governments and organizations using cooperative management to protect terrestrial areas and marine and coastal areas.

This audit found that the three federal entities supported cooperative management with Indigenous governments “within the limits of existing legislation.” Still, the audit recommended: that DFO work with Indigenous governments and organizations with whom it has cooperative management agreements to co-develop solutions in the short, medium, and long terms to key barriers and challenges to balancing the department’s marine conservation and fisheries management mandates with Indigenous people’s goals for protection and conservation; and that, where existing practices are not already in place, the three agencies should provide Indigenous partners with opportunities to meaningfully collaborate on recruitment processes for positions the Indigenous partners view as important to cooperative management.

Ultimately, any future legislative or regulatory amendments to Canada’s legal framework for area-based marine protection in the Arctic should take account for these recent findings and recommendations of the Auditor General.

Takeaways

This assessment points to several takeaways from the perspective of environmental advocacy in the Arctic:

First, it would be useful for Canada to articulate through its legal framework for area-based marine protection a clear, consistent, and robust role for Indigenous peoples, as represented by Indigenous governing bodies. Especially in the Arctic, the law should identify in clear terms the decision-making authority possessed by Indigenous peoples with respect to area-based marine protection and, more broadly, to marine spatial planning. This legal articulation should be heavily informed by, and would likely need to be integrated with, the emerging law and policy of IPCAs.

Second, it would be useful for Canada to consider deploying its extensive regulatory authority under current marine protection legislation to address priority thematic concerns for the Arctic. Regulations could be developed and issued, for example, to—

- expressly require DOM and provide more broadly for how the designation and management of Arctic MPAs should account for climate impacts in the Arctic, given that warming in Canada’s north is happening at three times the global average;
- expressly address through marine protected area designation and management requirements the impacts of Arctic industrial pressures, including shipping, fishing, and other extractive activities (coordinating with sectoral legal authorities governing those activities); and

- reference and incorporate into law the operation of a pan-Arctic marine conservation network, recognizing that conservation in the Arctic must of necessity operate on a highly integrated regional scale.

Third, it would be useful for Canada to consider elevating its minimum protection standard for MPAs from the level of policy guidance to law—either via legislative amendment of key acts or the issuance of new regulations. Canada’s minimum protection standard for federal MPAs, while innovative, operates at the level of non-binding policy until prohibitions are incorporated into new designations. These standards could be elevated into binding law.

Fourth, it would be useful for Canada to consider building out its already extensive policy framework for area-based marine protections to address the Arctic themes detailed above. Though not a substitute for legislative or regulatory action, this could represent a significant step toward those goals.

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The contents of this report, including any errors or omissions, are solely the responsibility of the authors. The authors welcome corrections and additions. This document is an educational resource, and nothing contained herein is intended to serve as legal advice.

ANNEX: Table of Authorities

Acts & Regulations—

Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. A-12

Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act, S.C. 2002, c. 18

Canada National Parks Act, S.C. 2000, c. 32

Canada Wildlife Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. W-9

Wildlife Area Regulations, C.R.C., c. 1609

Fisheries Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-14

Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, S.C. 1994, c. 22

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Policies, Plans, Strategies, & Reports—

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Office of the Auditor General of Canada, Federal-Indigenous Management of Protected Areas, 2025

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